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# CALNE URBAN DISTRICT.

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## The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Calne for 1925.

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This report is compiled in accordance with the directions issued by the Ministry of Health.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Urban District of Calne lies on both sides of the river Marden, a small stream rising about two miles from the town, by springs from the green sand below the chalk downs. The London to Bath road passes through and crosses this stream in the town, and in the immediate neighbourhood of this crossing the principal activities are carried on. The area of the district is 356 acres. The soil is of a clayey brash nature with a foundation of coral ragstone. The district (as a whole) is well drained and dries quickly after rain.

During the last two years the following measures have been taken to try, as far as is possible, to prevent such disastrous floods as that of 1920, viz.—

The entire length of the stream through the district has been cleaned of obstruction, the channel straightened and widened, and deepened where necessary, generally re-graded, and two obstructive bridges demolished and replaced by new ones of greater sectional area.

### POPULATION—

By Census (1921)	3640
As calculated for 1925 by the Registrar General for the purpose of Vital Statistics	3644
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	857
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	902
Rateable Value	Buildings £15,898 Land (full) £437
Sums represented by a 1d. Rate	£61 0 0

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS—

The principal industry in Calne is bacon curing carried on by the firm of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd. This affords occupation to the greater part of the working class inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The works have been remodelled to a large extent during the last five years, with much benefit to the health of the workers. The other industries are those which are usually carried on in a country town, such as corn milling, agricultural implement making, &c.

Neither the situation of the town, the nature of the soil nor the occupation of the inhabitants can be said to have any particular bearing on public health.

**Vital Statistics for 1925.**

BIRTHS—	Male	Female	
Legitimate	19	25	
Illegitimate	3	2	
			Total 49

Birth Rate (R.G.) 13.4 per 1000 inhabitants.

DEATHS—	Male	Female	
	15	29	Total 44

Death Rate (R.G.) 12.0.7 per 1000 inhabitants.

Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth

<i>a.</i> from Sepsis	1
<i>b.</i> from other causes	0

Deaths of children under one year—

	Male	Female	
Legitimate	1	1	
Illegitimate	0	0	
	—	—	
	1	1	Total 2

Death Rate (R.G.) 40.8 per 1000 births.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires special comment.

The amount of Poor Law out-relief for 1925 was £180 13 2½.

Medical aid in suitable cases can be easily obtained through the Poor Law. No other form of gratuitous medical aid exists locally, but the Hospitals at Bath and Bristol are utilized and are available for serious cases.

There has been no cause of sickness, or invalidity, requiring special notice during the last five years, nor any condition of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

**Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council.**

1. Tuberculosis—

Winsley Sanatorium.

Harnham (Salisbury) Sanatorium.

2. Maternity.—None.

3. Children.—None.

4. Fever.—

Calne Joint Isolation Hospital.

5. Small Pox.—

Small Pox Hospital, Swindon.

**No Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children** exists in the area except the Maternity Ward in the Workhouse Infirmary.

**Ambulance Facilities.—**

- a.* Infectious Cases. An ambulance is stationed at the Isolation Hospital.
- b.* Other Cases. None.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres.—**

None.

**Public Health Officers.—**

- a.* Medical Officer of Health.
- b.* Sanitary Inspector, W. H. Bateman, M.C., F.S.I., ASSOC.M.INST.C.E., LIC.R.E.B.A.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Borough Surveyor.

**Professional Nursing in the Home.—**

- a.* General Nursing. This is provided by the Calne Nursing Committee and is in every way satisfactory. It is entirely free from rate support.
- b.* Midwives. None are subsidised by the Local Authority.  
Two Midwives practice in the area.

**Chemical Work.—**

None is actually done in Calne.

**Legislation in Force.****Special Local Orders.—**

- a.* Borough of Calne Order, 1889.
- b.* Order Local Government Board 1896, under Sect. 33 of Local Government Act, 1894.
- c.* Calne Corporation Gas Order, 1922.
- d.* Calne Electricity Order, 1925.



**General Adopted Acts.—**

1. Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.
  2. Ditto ditto 1890, Part V.
  3. Ditto ditto 1907.
- Parts II. and III. (Sect. 35 and 51) IV, V, VI, VII.  
Part X (Sect. 92, 93, and 95).

**Bye Laws.--**

- Made As Urban Sanitary Authority, 16th July, 1888.
- „ As Urban Sanitary Authority (Recreation Ground) 21st March, 1892.
- „ In Good Rule and Government of the Borough and for Suppression of Nuisances, 12th September, 1910.
- „ Urban District Council, 19th September, 1911, 12th June, 1911.
- „ As regards Advertisement Hoarding, 4th September, 1913.
- „ As regards Public Vehicles, 14th Sept., 1925.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****WATER.—**

This is obtained mainly from the Calne Waterworks Company, but in certain cases from wells.

**Sufficiency.**

The area may be roughly divided into two parts as regards the sufficiency of the supply from the local water works.

1. Lower level houses have practically a continuous good supply by day as well as by night.

2. Higher level houses, where water does not reach, in some cases, even the ground floors by day, or at any rate during the time of day the factories are using it. These houses have to depend on storage tanks which in

most cases are too small and in any case unsatisfactory.

Notice has been served on these factories, &c., using water for business purposes that after April 1st, 1926, the Company's water supply to them will cease, and that the supply will then be available for domestic purposes only.

### Quality.

The water itself is derived directly from Springs which emerge from the green and under the Chalk Down at Calstone. There is no possibility of contamination. It is pure, hard, free from plumbo-solvent action.

### WELLS.

During the last five years 8 wells have been condemned for being contaminated and 9 houses have, in consequence, been supplied from the Company's Main.

Number of houses in the area connected with the Company's Main	827
Number of houses in the area not connected with the Company's Main	30

### Rivers and Streams.

The "back brook" an old mill race in the centre of the town, which had become very insanitary, was cleaned out thoroughly in 1924.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

Part of the area is not sewered, namely that part of Kew Lane and Anchor Road which lies on the right bank of the river, and also the Urban part of Quemersford.

The rest of the Borough is properly and efficiently sewered.

An old insanitary sewer in Wood Street was removed and replaced in 1921 and the 18 laterals in connection with it.

In 1923 the Town Council decided to remodel the Sewerage disposal works on modern lines. The position at the end of 1925 was that a scheme had been submitted to the Ministry of Health, and that the Town Council was awaiting information as to the holding of a Public enquiry.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

Conversion of pail closets to water carriage system during the last 5 years	8
Number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1925	58
Number of W.C's                      ditto	623

#### SCAVENGING—

There are no houses with fixed ashmiddens.

The refuse from 616 houses is collected weekly in 'horsed tip-carts' from receptacles placed in the streets.

193 informal notices for the removal of ashes, &c., has been issued and complied with during the last five years.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Report of the Sanitary Inspection under Act 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.

The following premises have been inspected—

- 2 Bacon Factories
- 5 Bakehouses
- 5 Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops.
- 3 Fish Shops
- 1 Fried Fish Shop
- 2 Motor Works
- 2 Engineer's Shops
- 1 Gas Works
- 2 Dressmaker's Premises
- 2 Tailor's Premises

- 2 Jeweller's Premises
- 4 Carpenter's and Builder's Shops
- 3 Bootmaker's Premises
- 2 Painter's and Paperhanger's Premises
- 1 Manure Works
- 3 Dairies and Milk Shops
- 4 Greengrocer's Shops

The defects noticed were

White washing required and want of cleanliness, tidiness, and nuisance from smells.

Ventilation and lighting were good.

Informal notices were given in every case of defect, and were complied with.

No Statutory notice was issued.

The Sanitary Inspector regularly visits the Slaughter houses, Bacon Factories, Butcher's Shops, Fish Shops, Bakehouses, Fruit Shops, Manure Works, Markets, &c.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No action required.

### **Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye Laws or Regulations.**

- 1 Manure Works
- 1 Gut-scraping Yard

These premises are inspected weekly by the Sanitary Inspector and, except for offensive smells occasionally, are carried on properly, and no Statutory action has been required.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary conditions are as good as can be expected in old buildings, and are kept in order. The water supply except in one School is good.



During the five years there have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease, but the schools have closed at various times for measles, influenza colds, mumps, &c.

## HOUSING.

### General Housing Conditions in the area.

#### I.—The General Conditions.

*a.* As far as the existing houses are concerned, the general conditions are for the main part satisfactory. There are, however, a certain number of houses in the Borough (about 30) of which, it can be said that they are seriously defective but which are allowed to remain occupied under stress of circumstances and which, as soon as the shortage of houses is ended, will be demolished.

*b.* There is a great shortage of houses.

*c.* Plans are contemplated for erecting houses in two areas under new housing schemes, one of the areas which has been secured has not yet been plotted out.

*d.* At present quite a considerable number of persons who work in the area are compelled to live in the neighbouring villages or towns.

#### II.—Overcrowding.

The cases of overcrowding which occur are mainly due to shortage of houses and are dealt with accordingly. In nearly every case it has been found possible to deal with the nuisance without Statutory action.

**Number of Cases**—14 cases of overcrowding during 1925. One case only required Statutory action.

#### III—Fitness of Houses.

*a.* General standard is good.

*b.* Defects noticed are defective drains, leaky roofs, falling ceilings, damp walls, defective stairs, and want of through ventilation.

*c.* The defects noticed are chiefly due to the character of the houses of which a minority are old.

**IV.—Statutory Action as to unfit houses.**

No action has been taken under

*a.* The Public Health Acts.

*b.* The Housing Acts.

**V.—Unhealthy Areas.**

Nil.

**VI.**—During the year the Tounson Almshouses, eight in number, have been re-roofed, thoroughly repaired inside and the sanitary arrangements put into good order.

**HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925.**

Number of new houses erected during the year	3
With State assistance under the Housing Act—	
1. By the Local Authority	0
2. By other bodies or persons	1

**I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses—****INSPECTION.**

1. Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	80
2. Total number of houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	80
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceeding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

**II. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—***

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
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*III. Action under Statutory Powers—*

<i>a. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925—</i>	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
<i>a. by Owners</i>	7
<i>b. by Local Authority in default of Owner</i>	0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations of Owners of intention to close	0
<i>b. Proceedings under Public Health Acts</i>	0
<i>c. Proceedings under Sections, 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925</i>	0

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.****A. Milk Supply.**

There is an ample supply of pure and wholesome milk available.

The milk shops are kept clean and sanitary, and the cans, vehicles, &c., for distributing the milk are kept in good order.

No action has been required as regards tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

**B. Meat.**

1. Meat Inspection.—The Sanitary Inspector is notified by the Butchers concerned of their intention to slaughter. He then visits and examines the carcasses and plucks.

At the Bacon Factories, however, it has been found impossible for the Inspector to examine all the carcasses and it is proposed to appoint immediately a whole time Veterinary Inspector for the work, the Sanitary Inspector being required to carry on the inspections at the other slaughter houses.



2. Stalls, shops, stores and vehicles for the sale or conveyance of meat are regularly inspected.

3. There are no public Slaughter Houses.

#### Number of Registered and Licensed Slaughter Houses—

	In 1920	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925
Registered	4	5	5
Licensed	0	0	0
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

### C. Other Foods.

Unsound Food and Food Inspection.—The Inspector gives Informal notices for the destruction of unsound food (vegetables, fruit, tinned goods, &c.,) and these have been complied with.

Sanitary condition of Bakehouses and other premises where foods are prepared, and exposed for sale, satisfactory.

No case of food poisoning has occurred.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Infectious Diseases Generally.

During the period since 1920, there have been no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

In 1921 a number of cases of diphtheria occurred in connection with the children attending an elementary school. All the children attending that school were bacteriologically examined (swabs taken from nose and throat) and seven were found to be “carriers” of Klebs bacilli. These children were excluded from school, and carefully isolated, until three consecutive swabs, taken a week apart, had been obtained from each, as to which the report was “free from presence of bacilli.” The removal of these children was followed by a cessation of the cases.

Diphtheria antitoxin is always available for prompt use in every case.

One case of encephalitis lethargica has been notified which proved fatal

In 1924 chicken pox was made notifiable for six months. The Medical Officer of Health visited cases for the purpose of verifying the diagnosis. Examination of swabs, blood, &c., is



paid for by the Authority, and full use is made of this arrangement.

The Schick and Dick tests for diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively have not been made use of, nor the recently developed artificial method of immunization against these diseases.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox prevention) Regulations 1917.

Since 1920 outbreaks of non-notifiable disease such as mumps, whooping cough and chicken pox have occurred and towards the end of 1925 one of measles.

The School Authorities regularly notify all cases of these diseases which occur among the School Children and the Medical Officer of Health investigates accordingly.

## **Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

### **REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

1.—In ordinary cases the house, or part of the house, is sealed up and disinfected by means of a sufficient number of Alformant lamps, articles other than bedding and personal clothing being suspended in the room or so arranged that the vapour has access thereto. The clothing, bedding, etc., used by the patient is removed in the vehicle attached to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected in the Thresh's Disinfector at the latter place.

2.—In special cases, e.g. typhoid fever, deaths from tuberculosis, etc., the rooms used by the patient are thoroughly cleansed, wall papers removed and burnt, rooms whitewashed and then submitted for disinfection. The bedding, clothing, etc., are burnt, compensation being paid if necessary.

3.—In certain special cases (i.e. those houses, schools or other places in which cases arise from time to time) the whole house or place is sealed up for two or three days, with sufficient Alformant lamps burning therein, and afterwards thoroughly cleansed. Arrangements are made for the case and the rest of the household to be suitably accommodated (in the case of a house) while this is being done.

The same method is applied in the case of verminous persons and homes.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)  
during 1925.**

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerpual Fever ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	0	0	0
Encephalitis			
Lethargica ...	1	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				1				
10			1					
15								
20					1	1		
25						1		
35	1				1			
45								
55						1		
65 upwards.								
	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	0

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

In the case of a Milk Seller who was found tubercular, he, at once, gave up the business and the premises were disinfected.

RALPH S. FERGUSON,

*M. O. H. Calne U. D.**March 20th, 1926.*

